

Other Accomplishments

- Farm Conservation Plans completed: 27
- Dairy Nutrient Management Plans completed/updated: 10
- Total Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed: 58
- Acres of land with BMPs applied: 9,113
- In-stream projects (large woody debris, channel re-meander): 10
- CREP Plans completed: 22
- CREP projects maintained: 124
- CREP acres maintained: 780
- Stream feet fenced: 19,538
- Stream feet planted: 100,367
- Native plants installed: 93,970
- Cooperators provided one-on-one technical assistance: 1,917
- Workshop participants: 220



Installation of a "beaver deceiver" by CREP contractors, Squalicum Mountain Enterprises, helps to manage stream water levels and reduce the impact of flooding due to beaver repopulation in restored riparian habitat.

2008 Feature Accomplishment

South Fork Dakota Creek Riparian Rehabilitation

Resource Challenge

Dakota Creek is a tributary to Drayton Harbor, an important shellfish growing area in northern Puget Sound. Much of the Dakota Creek sub-basin is characterized by poor water quality and degraded salmon habitat due to historic and ongoing land use practices. Historically, many streams were straightened and their bank vegetation removed to increase farming efficiency. Today these streams lack habitat complexity and shade, and are now choked with non-native Reed canary grass. Many streams are also unfenced, allowing livestock access.

Project Summary and Results

Using the Community Salmon Fund (National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board) to pay for in-stream work, the District worked with a Dakota Creek beef cow producer to design and implement a project to re-create 2,200 feet of historic stream meanders; add 20 large woody debris arrays to improve channel complexity; and replace two culverts blocking fish access. Re-connected stream meanders opened access to an additional 12,000 linear feet of off-channel habitat.

CREP financed planting of 18.6 acres of native trees and shrubs along the stream to shade the water and limit Reed canary grass re-infestation. Additional CREP project components included 7,000 feet of fencing and off-channel livestock watering facilities (nose pumps). This project adjoins several other CREP plantings, both upstream and downstream, connecting more than a mile of rehabilitated stream corridor.



Re-establishing historic stream meanders



A nose pump provides water for livestock while new fencing and planting ensures stream corridor protection.

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More Work To Do

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP):

- Ten CREP participants have enrolled and are waiting to proceed with new practices added under the 2008 Farm Bill. New practices are Hedgerow, Filter Strip, and Wetland Enhancement. Staff expects training on new practice implementation. Annual goal is 30 new CREP projects per year.

Livestock:

- On-going work with 130 commercial dairy operations
- Provide countywide, non-commercial, farm education through a workshop series and farm tour serving 100 landowners.